



DAWLISH URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

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ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
AND THE
PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR
FOR THE YEAR

1961

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H. M. DAVIES,
M.A., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.
ASSISTANT COUNTY MEDICAL OFFICER :
DEVON COUNTY COUNCIL.
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH :
DAWLISH U.D.C.
NEWTON ABBOT R.D.C.
NEWTON ABBOT U.D.C.
TEIGNMOUTH U.D.C. AND
PORT HEALTH AUTHORITY.

COUNCIL OFFICES.

BITTON HOUSE,
TEIGNMOUTH.

TELEPHONE No. Teignmouth 1200

DAWLISH URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT - 1961.

Mr. Chairman and Councillors.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I present my Annual Report for the year ended 31st. December, 1961.

The statistics concerning the Birth and Death rates approximate to the figures applicable to those of the Administrative County and England and Wales and therefore call for no comment.

The table giving the ages at which the 113 deaths occurred is remarkable in that well over half of these deaths occurred in persons of 75 years of age and more. These figures emphasise, once again, the very high proportion of elderly persons who live in Resorts such as Dawlish. The needs of these elderly people are a constant problem to the Health and Welfare Services in the district, and at long last it seems to be clearly understood that an elderly person must continue to live a normal, independent life for just as long as he is able. One of the first needs of an elderly person is suitable accommodation; it is useless for an elderly widow to struggle on alone in the same large house in which she brought up her family. Her needs are simple and are admirably met by schemes such as the flats at Newhay. There is always reluctance to move, but it is essential that the move should take place and every encouragement and inducement should be given to achieve this end. There will be protesting, but invariably the old lady will appreciate her new surroundings.

Infectious diseases continue to decrease. No cases of Smallpox, or Poliomyelitis, or Diphtheria, or Whooping Cough, or Tetanus have been reported during the year. I have written this paragraph as a series of negatives, but it must be remembered

that these Infectious Diseases have not disappeared spontaneously. They have been brought under control by the various protective measures of Vaccination and Immunisation. All these diseases still exist, and one has to be careful to see that parents are constantly reminded of the need to protect their children. Complacency is a very real danger.

Regarding Tuberculosis, four new cases have been notified. No deaths have occurred during the year from this cause. The constant fight against Tuberculosis is now nearing its end and, provided that there is no relaxation, this disease should become a rarity within but a few years. Lung Cancer is taking the place of Tuberculosis and the rise in the incidence of this disease over the past 20 years is about equal, in the same time, to the fall in the number of cases of Tuberculosis. The prime cause of Lung Cancer is cigarette smoking - a fact now beyond dispute. At the present state of our knowledge the only factor which will reduce the incidence of this disease is to eliminate cigarette smoking. A simple procedure! In any case it is the duty of every parent to see that his children are discouraged from starting this most dangerous habit.


A start has been made during the year on a slum clearance programme and 12 individual properties were reported to the Council. Before this is continued on a large scale it will be necessary for the Council to initiate a new building programme. The two schemes must go hand in hand.

Regarding the controversial problem of sea water pollution, I am as convinced as ever that the Council's proposal for the drainage and disposal for the Northern Area is correct, and I hope that this scheme will not be unduly delayed.

I would also like to comment on your Public Health Inspector's Report. This shows in brief the tremendous improvement that has taken place since Mr. Pickthall's appointment, especially in respect of Meat Inspection and Food Hygiene.

Finally, I should like to thank, once again, the Chairman, Councillors and all members of the staff for the help and co-operation received.

I have the honour to be,
Your obedient Servant,



Medical Officer of Health.

November, 1962.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

Area (in acres).....	6,091
Population in Mid 1961.....	7,340
Population 1951 census.....	7,512
Rateable Value as at the 1st. January, 1961.....	£102,557
Rateable Value as at the 31st. December, 1961.....	£105,089
Product of ld. rate as at the 1st. April, 1961.....	£441.

VITAL STATISTICS

Live Births

	Male	Female	Total
Legitimate	44	33	77
Illegitimate	2	2	4
	<u>46</u>	<u>35</u>	<u>81</u>
Crude Live Birth rate per 1000 total population			11.03
Corrected Live Birth rate per 1000 total population			13.12
Crude Live Birth rate per 1000 total population Administrative County of Devon			14.25
Corrected Live Birth rate per 1000 total population Administrative County of Devon			15.39
Live Birth rate per 1000 total population England and Wales			17.4

Still Births

One Still Birth occurred in Dawlish during 1961. One Hundred and twenty eight Still Births occurred within the Administrative County of Devon during the year.

Still Birth rate per 1000 total population Administrative County of Devon	16.94
Corresponding rate for England and Wales	19.1

DEATHS

The average age at death, from all causes, was found to be 73.26 years. The average age of all male deaths was 69.88 years and female deaths 76.1 years.

DEATHS

	Male	Female	Total
	51	62	113
Crude Death rate per 1000 total population			15.40
Corrected Death rate per 1000 total population			11.39
Crude Death rate per 1000 total population Administrative County of Devon			14.72
Corrected Death rate per 1000 total population Administrative County of Devon			11.63
Death rate per 1000 total population England and Wales			12.00

Infant Mortality

(Deaths of Infants under One year)

No deaths of infants under one year occurred in Dawlish during 1961.

Infant Mortality rate (death of Infants under one year) Administrative County of Devon	15.88
Corresponding rate for England and Wales	21.6

Neo-Natal Mortality

(Death of Infants under Four Weeks)

No deaths of infants under four weeks occurred in Dawlish during 1961.

Neo-Natal Mortality rate Administrative County of Devon	11.04
Corresponding rate for England and Wales	15.5

Peri-Natal Mortality

(Death of Infants under One week)

No deaths of infants under one week occurred in Dawlish during 1961.

Peri-Natal mortality rate (Still Births and deaths of infants under one week) Administrative County of Devon	26.33
Corresponding rate for England and Wales	32.2

Maternal Mortality

No maternal deaths occurred in Dawlish during 1961.
No maternal deaths occurred within the Administrative County of Devon.

AGE AT DEATH

	Male	Female
Infants under One week	-	-
Infants under Four weeks	-	-
Infants under One year	-	-
1 - 4	-	-
5 - 14	-	-
15 - 24	3	-
25 - 44	1	2
45 - 64	10	6
65 - 74	12	17
75 and over	25	37
	<hr/> 51	<hr/> 62

Total: 113

CAUSES OF DEATH

	Male	Female
All causes	51	62
Malignant neoplasm, stomach	1	2
Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	1	-
Malignant neoplasm, breast	-	1
Malignant neoplasm, uterus	-	2
Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	4	2
Diabetes	-	1
Vascular lesions of nervous system	6	11
Coronary disease, angina	8	14
Hypertension with heart disease	1	-
Other heart disease	14	18
Other circulatory disease	2	2
Pneumonia	4	2
Bronchitis	2	1
Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	1	2
Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	-	1
	<hr/> 44	<hr/> 59
carried forward		

CAUSES OF DEATH (continued)

	Male	Female
brought forward	44	59
Nephritis and nephrosis	1	-
Congenital malformations	-	1
Other defined and ill-defined diseases	6	2
	<u>51</u>	<u>62</u>

Total: 113

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

	Male	Female	Total
Scarlet Fever	1	2	3
Measles	26	29	55
Pneumonia	3	1	4
	<u>30</u>	<u>32</u>	<u>62</u>

Total: 62

TUBERCULOSIS

Two cases of pulmonary and two cases of non-pulmonary tuberculosis were notified in Dawlish during 1961. Details are set out in the following table:-

<u>Age Periods</u>	<u>Cases</u>			
	Pulmonary M	F	Non-Pulmonary M	F
5 - 14	-	1	1	-
15 - 24	-	-	-	-
25 - 44	-	-	-	1
45 - 64	1	-	-	-
	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>

Total: 4

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACTS, 1948 and 1951.

In no case was official action, under Section 47 of the National Assistance Acts, 1948 and 1951, necessary during 1961.

DAWLISH URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

ANNUAL REPORT

OF

PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

1961

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Public Health Inspector : L.A. Pickthall, A.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I.,
Cert. S.I.E.J.B., Cert. Meat Inspector.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR.

To The Chairman and Members of
The Dawlish Urban District Council.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in submitting my second Annual Report for the year 1961.

During the year I continued inspection of food premises and maintained a 100% meat inspection service.

A survey was also made of the hairdressing establishments and factories in the District. A considerable amount of time was spent on supervising the work carried out by the owners of the caravan sites to comply with their site licence conditions.

In May I attended a course of Port Health Administration and Practice at London Docks in order to be eligible to relieve the Port Health Inspector at Teignmouth during sickness or leave. He in turn carries out meat inspection at Dawlish whilst I am away.

I should like to thank the Council for their unfailing support during the year.

I am,

Your obedient servant,

L.A. PICKTHALL.
Public Health Inspector.

6th November, 1962.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

1. WATER SUPPLY.

The following information has been supplied by the Surveyor and Water Engineer, Mr. H.G. Ferrett, M.I.M. & C.Y.E., Cert.R.San.I. :-

(a) Source of Public Supply.

All the water is obtained from the upland catchment area at Thorns and augmented during the summer months from a lowland pumped source at Duckaller.

(b) Distribution.

From both the above sources, the supply is taken to a filtration and storage plant at Burrows Reservoir situated above the town, from whence distribution is made of the treated water to all parts of the Urban District.

Distribution is made of a proportion of untreated water to the Parish of Ashcombe, situated in the St.Thomas Rural District.

(c) Quantity.

The total quantity of water supplied during 1961 amounted to 110,300,000 gallons.

(d) Quality of Supply.

The supply to the town is dosed with sulphate of alumina, precipitated, gravity filtered and the natural acidity and induced acidity is corrected by a lime dose followed by the application of gaseous chlorine.

2. WATER SAMPLING.

(a) Bacteriological Examination of Raw Water.

31 samples of untreated water were taken. 25 samples contained B. Coli in 100 ml. and thus were unsatisfactory.

(b) Bacteriological Examination of Treated Water.

4 samples were taken. All were satisfactory.

3. SEWERAGE AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL.

Sewage flows to three Disintegrator Stations situated at Holcombe, Railway Viaduct and Sea Lawn. Two of these disintegrators are of the continuous rotary-drum screen type.

The disintegrated sewage from the Viaduct and Sea Lawn Stations is taken to sea by outfall near Black Bridge. The Holcombe discharge enters the sea at a point below the rocks at Holcombe.

4. REFUSE DISPOSAL.

Refuse is disposed of at the Council Tip situated at Shutterton Bridge, Exeter Road.

Constant treatments were carried out during 1961 to reduce the fly and rodent infestations. Difficulties were experienced during the summer months due to the large increase in refuse and to the lack of covering material.

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA.

1. PUBLIC HEALTH ACT, 1936.

Number of inspections made	:	119
Number of Preliminary Notices served:		55
Number of re-inspections made	:	175
Number of Abatement Notices served	:	7
Number of Notices complied with	:	33

2. DISINFESTATION.

24 premises were treated for wasp infestation.
5 premises were treated for hornet infestation.
2 premises were treated for flea infestation.
2 premises were treated for cockroach infestation.

3. PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS ACT, 1949.

Rodent Control.

In accordance with the instructions issued by the Infestation Control Division of the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, 10 per cent of the sewers in the district are test baited annually. Evidence of infestation was found only in the Cockwood area where subsequent treatments were carried out.

Treatments to private houses were made free of charge, but business premises charged at the rate of 10s. per hour.

	Type of Property				
	Council's Property	Dwelling Houses	Agricultural	Business	TOTAL
No. of properties inspected.	12	39	-	4	55
No. found to be infested by rats.	12	34	-	4	50
No. seriously infested by mice.	-	5	-	-	5
No. of properties treated.	12	39	-	4	55

4. SHOPS ACT, 1950.

Number of inspections made	:	1
Number of Notices served	:	1

5. CARAVAN SITES AND HOLIDAY CAMPS.

Number of inspections made	:	87
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6. HOUSING ACTS.

Unfit Houses.

Number of dwelling-houses surveyed	:	12
Number of houses represented to Council as being unfit for human habitation	:	12
Number of Notices served under Repairs Section.	:	Nil
Number of housing re-inspections	:	55

Overcrowding.

Number of cases of overcrowding discovered and owners contacted.	:	4
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Certificates of Disrepair.

Number of certificates issued	:	2
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Applicants for Council Houses.

Number of visits made	:	48
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7. HAIRDRESSING ESTABLISHMENTS.

At the Council's request a survey was made of all the hairdressing establishments in the district. The general standard of cleanliness and hygienic practice was found to be good, and only in one instance was it found necessary to write to the proprietor.

Number of Hairdressers visited:-

Ladies	:	8
Gentlemen's	:	4

Number of premises in which improvements were requested:-

By letter	:	1
Verbally	:	3

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

1. MEAT INSPECTION.

Animals Slaughtered and Inspected and Particulars of Condemnations.

	CATTLE (except Cows)	COWS	CALVES	SHEEP and LAMBS	PIGS	HORSES
NUMBER KILLED	649	7	190	4724	1371	-
NUMBER INSPECTED	649	7	190	4724	1371	-
ALL DISEASES EXCEPT TUBERCULOSIS AND CYSTICERCI						
(a) Whole carcasses condemned	-	-	1	12	-	-
(b) Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	90	1	-	66	57	-
PERCENTAGE OF THE NUMBER INSPECTED AFFECTED WITH DISEASE OTHER THAN TUBERCULOSIS AND CYSTICERCI	13.87	14.3	.53	1.65	4.16	-
TUBERCULOSIS ONLY						
(a) Whole carcasses condemned	-	-	-	-	-	-
(b) Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	1	-	-	-	23	-
PERCENTAGE OF THE NUMBER INSPECTED AFFECTED WITH TUBERCULOSIS	.15	-	-	-	1.68	-
CYSTICERCOSIS						
(a) Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	10	-	-	-	-	-
(b) Carcasses submitted to treat- ment by refrigeration	4	-	-	-	-	-
(c) Generalised and totally con- demned	-	-	-	-	-	-

Total weight of condemned meat - 2552 lbs.

Number of visits to Slaughterhouses - 382.

2. SLAUGHTERHOUSES.

Slaughtering during the whole of the year took place at two private slaughterhouses:-

Hensford Farm, Dawlish.
Stockton Road, Dawlish.

3. INSPECTION OF OTHER FOODS.

The following food stuffs were examined and condemned as being unfit for human consumption:-

12	lbs	Corned beef.
3	lbs	Tinned beef hamburgers.
9	lb 8 ozs.	Butter.
87 $\frac{1}{2}$	lbs	Marshmallow biscuits.
6	lbs	Madeira Cake.
6	lbs	Bottled Chicken.
18	lbs	Tinned Chicken.
7	lbs	Smoked Cod Fillets.
14	lbs	Smoked Haddock.
7	lb 8 ozs.	Tinned Red Plums.
6	lbs 9 ozs.	Tinned Plum Tomatoes.
9 $\frac{3}{4}$	lbs	Turkey.

4. DISPOSAL OF CONDEMNED FOOD.

Condemned meat from the slaughterhouses is disposed of by the butchers to a bye-product manufacturing firm, who also arrange transport. Certain condemned offal is disposed of to a mink breeder in the district.

All other condemned foodstuffs are disposed of under supervision at the Council's Refuse Tip.

5. INSPECTION OF FOOD PREMISES.

Food premises in the area by type and number:-

General Provision Shops/Green-Grocers	:	44
Restaurants, Cafes and Snack Bars	:	22
Fish Mongers	:	3
Fried Fish Shops	:	2
Butchers	:	5
Confectionery Shops	:	4
Bake Houses	:	5
Mobile Food Shops and Vehicles	:	8
Food Factory	:	1
Cider Factory	:	1
Licensed premises	:	21
Hotels/Boarding Houses	:	66
School Canteens	:	6
Holiday Camp Shops and Kitchens	:	9

Number of inspections of food premises:-

<u>Type of Premises:</u>	<u>Number of Inspections.</u>	<u>Number of Notices Served.</u>
Cafes and Restaurants	13	3
Butchers Shops	15	3
Fried Fish Shops	2	1
Bake-Houses	15	4
General Provision Shops	43	10
Fishmongers	8	1
Green-Grocery Shops	2	2
Confectionery Shops	10	-
Mobile Food Vehicle Shops	3	2
Hotels/Boarding Houses	10	3
Snack Bars/Kiosks	12	2
Food Factory	2	-
School Canteens	3	1
	<hr/> 138	<hr/> 32

Number of re-inspections of food premises : 67
Number of Notices complied with : 24

6. REGISTRATIONS - FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1955 - SECTION 13.

The following premises were inspected and registered for:-

The manufacture of sausages, cooked meat, etc. : 1

The sale of:-

(a) Loose ice cream : 4
(b) Pre-packed Ice-cream : 2

7. ICE-CREAM.

Eight samples of ice-cream were taken and submitted to the Public Health Laboratory for examination. The results were:-

5 samples - Grade 1 - Satisfactory
1 sample - Grade 3 - Unsatisfactory
2 samples - Grade 4 - Very bad.

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FACTORIES ACTS, 1937 AND 1948.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

IN RESPECT OF THE YEAR 1961

FOR THE URBAN DISTRICT OF DAWLISH IN THE COUNTY OF DEVON.

Prescribed Particulars on the Administration
of the Factories Act, 1937.

PART 1 OF THE ACT.

1. INSPECTIONS FOR THE PURPOSE OF PROVISION AS TO HEALTH (INCLUDING
INSPECTIONS MADE BY THE PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR.)

	No. on Register	Number of		
		Inspec- tions.	Written Notices	Occupiers Prosecuted
(i) Factories in which S. 1, 2, 3, 4 & 6 are to be enforced by the L/A.	2	2	1	Nil
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which S. 7. is enforced by the L/A.	20	21	5	Nil
(iii) Other premises in which S. 7. is enforced by the L/A (excluding out-workers' premises).	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
TOTALS :	22	23	6	Nil

2. CASES IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE FOUND.

		No. of Cases in which Defects were found.				No. of cases in which prosecutions were instituted.
		Found.	Remedied	To H.M. Inspr.	By H.M. Inspr.	
Want of Cleanliness	S.1	1	1	-	-	-
Overcrowding	S.2	-	-	-	-	-
Unreasonable Temperature	S.3	-	-	-	-	-
Inadequate Ventilation	S.4	1	1	-	-	-
Ineffective Drainage of floors.	S.6	-	-	-	-	-
Sanitary Conveniences	S.7					
(a) Insufficient		-	-	-	-	-
(b) Unsuitable or Defective		5	5	-	-	-
(c) Not separate for Sexes		-	-	-	-	-
Other offences against the act		1	1	-	-	-
TOTALS :		8	8	-	-	-

No cases of outwork being carried on in unwholesome premises have been found, and consequently Table 3 has not been included.

